REMARKS

Claims 1-26 were pending as of the action mailed on November 25, 2005.

Claims 1 and 22 are being amended. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments can be found at page 1, line 24 to page 2, line 10.

Reexamination and reconsideration of the action are requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 21 and 26 because "the old and new graphical elements and their respective types must be associated." The applicant respectfully disagrees. The Examiner, for example, presents the illustration of a transformation from a vector image to a raster image and states that the respective types must be associated. The applicant directs the Examiner's attention to page 1, lines 6-9, where vector strokes and vector fills are listed as different types of graphical elements than rasterized images. The applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Section 102

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 11-14, 16, 18-24, and 26 were rejected as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,141,462 ("Yoshino"). The applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As amended, claim 1 recites receiving an original graphical element that has an associated original type and blending at least part of the original graphical element and at least part of at least one other graphical element to produce a transformed graphical element that has an associated transformed type. The transformed type is different from the original type. Information about the original type for the original graphical element is stored, and at least one of the transformed graphical element and an adjacent graphical element are processed using the stored information about the original type. A rule associated with processing of graphical elements that have the original type differs from a corresponding rule associated with processing of graphical elements that have the transformed type.

Yoshino discloses a method of trapping an image that can effectively merge multiple adjoining objects into a single larger object. *See* column 5, line 52 to column 6, line 42. The adjoining objects are merged when a density difference (*i.e.*, a difference in color component values) between the adjoining objects is below a threshold. *See* column 5, line 55 to column 6, line 4. The single larger object is used when trapping the image, rather than trapping the adjoining objects individually. *See* column 6, lines 50-55.

The Examiner finds the limitations that an original graphical element has an associated original type and a transformed graphical element has an associated transformed type in Yoshino's individual objects and merged objects, stating that "[t]he blended graphical element is transformed from an individual object type to a blended object type." The Examiner also finds processing a graphical element in Yoshino's trapping. However, as is clarified by the amendment to claim 1, the original type and transformed type cannot simply be an "individual object type" and a "blended object type," respectively. Instead, the original type and the transformed type are such that a rule used when processing (in the Examiner's example, trapping) graphical elements that have the original type is different than a corresponding rule used when processing graphical elements that have the transformed type. In Yoshino, the rules used when processing the adjoining elements and the rules used when processing the merged element are the <u>same</u>, although the border of the resulting trap region may differ (*See, e.g.*, Yoshino, figures 3E and 3F).

Yoshino does not disclose or suggest processing a transformed graphical element and/or an adjacent graphical element using stored information about an original type for a graphical element that was blended with another graphical element to produce the transformed element, where the transformed element has a transformed type, and a rule associated with processing of graphical elements of the original type differs from a corresponding rule associated with processing of graphical elements of the transformed type.

For at least these reasons, claim 1 and dependent claims 2-5, 7-8, 11-14, 16, and 18-21 are allowable over Yoshino.

Claim 22 includes limitations similar to those of claim 1. Claim 22 and dependent claims 23-24 and 26 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Section 103

Claims 6, 9, 17, and 25 were rejected as allegedly unpatentable over Yoshino in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,594,030 ("Ahlstrom"). The applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Ahlstrom discloses a method of automatically calculating traps for objects in a native desktop publishing application. *See* column 1, lines 9-12. A first object is trapped against other objects by decomposing the first object into object components, self-trapping the object components against each other to generate trap segments, and trapping the trap segments against the other objects. *See* column 3, lines 3-25.

Ahlstrom, alone or when combined with Yoshino, does not disclose or suggest processing a transformed graphical element and/or an adjacent graphical element using stored information about an original type for a graphical element that was blended with another graphical element to produce the transformed element, where the transformed element has a transformed type, and a rule associated with processing of graphical elements of the original type differs from a corresponding rule associated with processing of graphical elements of the transformed type.

For at least this reason, claims 6, 9, 17, and 25 are allowable over the combination of Yoshino and Ahlstrom.

Claim 10 was rejected as allegedly unpatentable over Yoshino in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0214534 ("Uemura"). The applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Uemura discloses a method of displaying data items in a manner that indicates both the importance and the urgency of the data items. *See* abstract.

Uemura, alone or when combined with Yoshino, does not disclose or suggest processing a transformed graphical element and/or an adjacent graphical element using stored information about an original type for a graphical element that was blended with another graphical element to produce the transformed element, where the transformed element has a transformed type, and a

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rule associated with processing of graphical elements of the original type differs from a corresponding rule associated with processing of graphical elements of the transformed type.

For at least this reason, claim 10 is allowable over the combination of Yoshino and Uemura.

Claim 15 was rejected as allegedly unpatentable over Yoshino in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0141194 ("Gupta"). The applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Gupta discloses a method of reducing the amount of ink or toner used to print a color document using halftoning. *See* ¶1.

Gupta, alone or when combined with Yoshino, does not disclose or suggest processing a transformed graphical element and/or an adjacent graphical element using stored information about an original type for a graphical element that was blended with another graphical element to produce the transformed element, where the transformed element has a transformed type, and a rule associated with processing of graphical elements of the original type differs from a corresponding rule associated with processing of graphical elements of the transformed type.

For at least this reason, claim 15 is allowable over the combination of Yoshino and Gupta.

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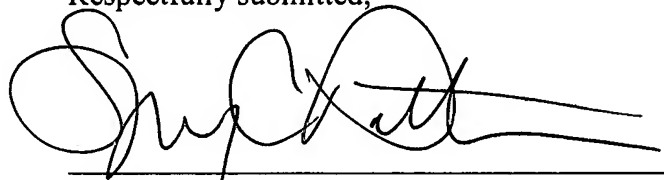Attorney Docket No.: 07844-634001

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the applicant submits that all the claims are in condition for allowance.

By responding in the foregoing remarks only to particular positions taken by the Examiner, the applicant does not acquiesce in other positions that have not been explicitly addressed. In addition, the applicant's arguments for the patentability of a claim should not be understood as implying that no other reasons for the patentability of that claim exist. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/15/06

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